September 1, 2206

Mr. Andrew Hall Chairman Alexandria Potomac Yard Fire Station and Affordable Housing Task Force c/o Rose Williams Boyd City of Alexandria Office of Citizen Assistance 301 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Hall,

The Volunteers of Potomac Truck and Engine Company No. 2 are opposed to the relocation of Engine 202 and the future relocation of Medic Unit 202 from 213 E. Windsor Avenue to Potomac Yards.

It doesn't make any public safety sense to move Engine 202 from the DelRay neighborhood of old frame houses and buildings to another neighborhood that has fire resistant construction and sprinkler systems.

Does it make sense to move the engine company out of Del Ray and leave the Medic Unit without back up support? Engine 202 responds to 50% of EMS calls in Del Ray. It gets to the scene first about 65% of the time because Medic 202 is responding from the hospital or another Medic Unit is coming from another station. Del Ray has an older and less transient, taxpayer population and needs that engine and medic unit for EMS calls and fire services.

Why put another fire station on the other side of Route 1 (a traffic barrier) that will increase the response time into Del Ray, Rosemount, Warwick Village and North Ridge? The Fire Department is taking the engine from the middle of the response area to the north-east corner of the area.

Also, fire insurance rates may go up for all homeowners because of the move. Fire Station 202 is in the right location now. It has direct emergency routes north and south from Mt. Vernon Avenue, Jefferson Davis Highway, Commonwealth Avenue, Russell Road, and west and east on Windsor Avenue.

The current station location on E. Windsor Ave. is the only street in Del Ray that goes from Braddock Rd. to Jeff-Davis Highway, a direct route to and from the Alexandria Hospital. Moving Engine 202 and the Medic Unit puts it further away from Mt. Vernon, George Washington, George Mason, Maury, Immanuel Lutheran, Alexandria Country Day, St. Agnes Schools and daycare facilities.

When the new Monroe Ave. Bridge is finished Fire Station 204 on Powhatan Street will have a quick and straight response route to the main street in Potomac Yards. Station 204 is two blocks from Potomac Yards.

The Alexandria Fire Department said that they need a bigger fire Station to houses larger fire engines. But you need smaller fire engines to service the narrow streets of Del Ray. The Fire Department recently purchased a smaller engine for Del Ray.

The Del Ray Fire Station Potomac Truck & Engine Company No. 2 was established in 1924 and has a long history in our community and still is the heart of Del Ray.

This relocation does not have anything to do with affordable housing in Potomac Yards because their going in there anyway.

We believe the best interests for the residents, schools, and businesses that Engine and Medic 202 should stay right where they are at Station 202 on 213 E. Windsor Avenue.

Very Respectfully,

Jay Johnson

President
Potomac Truck & Engine Company No. 2
213 East Windsor Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22301

cc: Mayor Willaim D. Euille